## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office

April 11, 2000 LB 922

Cozad, we have Lexington, we have a lot of towns, Overton, I'm going to miss a town here, but we're lucky. We're along a major railroad, we have I-80 right close by us, we have Highway 30 and we're fortune. We have people in these towns that work hard at enticing manufacturers and companies to come. We're lucky in Dawson County. We are lucky, and I want to emphasize that. No, shouldn't say "lucky". We have people who work at it and it takes work. But along with population growth and this you know Along with this, you know what happens, unfortunately what happens. And when those things happen and I think those people that get into trouble, even though you may say they're this and they're that, and they need this, they need that, they're criminals, they still have to have their day in court and they deserve a day in court, absolutely deserve it. Why hurry them through like a bunch of cattle through a chute? We're not branding cattle here. These are human beings and they be heard and they deserve to have adequate representation. I figured it out here. It costs three hundred and some thousand, Senator Wehrbein says, and that's about what, the total amount that's about \$2 a day, \$2 a day per year, not per day, per year, \$2. That's one of those Twinkies that Senator Schrock was talking about and a bottle of pop a year would fund this. Think about that, per judge about a dollar per year. Just ponder that for about five seconds here. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Suttle.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. President. In Douglas County, judges are hearing, in 1998, 17,748 cases, they're hearing more than that in 1999 and more than that in the year 2000. have the Douglas County Juvenile Court's hearing and ordered hearings generated per year to have increased 136 percent is pretty mind-boggling. That's 5,000 cases per judge per year. Think about that in a day. They...and that's just five days a week that they work. It is...it is very troubling to me to realize that this comes down to money. If a judge is hearing 5,000 cases a year we're not talking about chickens, we're not talking about cattle, we're not talking about, Senator Coordsen, hogs. We're talking about kids. It might be the same kid going through a hearing, but it's a hearing nonetheless. Each time a child goes in front of a judge it has to be traumatic for them. If they aren't getting a fair shake what kind of adjudication is